

GOSHEN PUBLIC SCHOOL
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
Delsea Drive (State Route 47) near
intersection with County Road
Nos. 646 and 615
Goshen
Cape May County
New Jersey

HABS NO. NJ-1191

HABS
NJ
5-GOSH,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 97127
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GOSHEN PUBLIC SCHOOL

HABS No. NJ-1191

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2-

Location: Delsea Drive (State Route 47) near intersection with County Road Nos. 646 and 615, Goshen, Cape May County, New Jersey.

Significance: This modest vernacular form of a gable-front frame rectangular block is found throughout South Jersey employed for school, church and community structures throughout the second half of the nineteenth century.

Description: This gable-front, two-story rectangular school structure is three bays wide and eight bays deep and sits on a masonry foundation; the frame structure and interior of the pediment is clad with horizontal siding. There are paneled pilasters on all four corners. The gable roof is covered with asphalt; it has one slope chimney that vented a heater. Deep eaves are formed by a cornice that also forms a pediment; paired decorative brackets are found along it. A square cupola (perhaps bell tower), set on a square paneled base, is located at the front gable end; paired rounded openings contain louvers, and the roofline treatment is identical to the cornice of the main block. There are two doorways. The central, gable-end entrance consists of double paneled doors topped by a simple entablature, and accessible by three steps bounded by a wood railing. A second pair of paneled doors is located on the side facade adjacent to the front-gable end: these are accessed by four steps, and are covered by a gable-roof porch with pediment. All fenestration is six-over-six-light double-hung wood sash; these openings are placed closer together toward the rear of the structure, such that they are nearly banked.

History: Erected 1872.

One of the oldest towns in the county, Goshen was first settled in 1693: Aaron Leaming (the first of nine men of that name) raised cattle here. A cluster of houses appeared in 1710, and it became a stagecoach stop on the Philadelphia-Cape May route. Like Dennisville, Goshen's industrial history centered around lumbering and ship building. Some of the shipyards were along Goshen Creek, where the vessels were, again, launched sideways because of the narrow channel. The town was fifth in the county to receive a post office.

Today, Goshen consists of several houses, a post office, two churches, the school discussed here and the municipal building next to it, and a filling station--all primarily along Delsea Drive (State Route 47).

Sources:

Beitel, Herb and Vance Enck. Cape May County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk: Donning Co., 1988.

Sebold, Kimberly, and Sara Amy Leach. Historic Themes and Resources within the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail: Southern New Jersey and the Delaware Bay. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1991.

Project Information: The project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian. The project was completed during summer 1992. The project historian was Kimberly R. Sebold (University of Delaware). The photography was produced by David Ames, University of Delaware, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering.